GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3820
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
IMPACT ON PICTORIAL WARNING ON BEEDI WORKERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from various quarters regarding the adverse affect of the law regarding mandatory pictorial warning on all tobacco products on the livelihood of poor Beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to protect the poor Beedi workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The representations have been received from various organizations/Central Trade Unions such as CITU, HMS, AITUC, TUCC, UTCC, The Tobacco Institute of India, Bihar Rajya Beedi Mazdoor Federation, All India Bidi Industry Federation, Consortium of Indian Farmers Associations, Federation of Farmers Associations, etc., particularly relating to apprehensions of loss of employment, arrangement of alternative employment to the affected beedi workers, adverse affect on health, etc.

(c): There are studies to indicate that various public health measures such as pictorial health warnings mandated under the Packaging and Labeling Rules, 2008 of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 do not have any immediate economic impact on the industry due to the addictive nature of the tobacco product and the time taken for demand reduction. However, Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted to examine all the aspects relating to the mandatory pictorial warning. It was decided to finalize alternative designs of the pictorial health warnings of appropriate size for the mandatory pictorial warning.